

What is claimed is:

1. A null symbol detection device used for receivers for a digital broadcasting system which repeatedly transmits a null symbol with smaller transmission power  
5 than those of other symbols during a fixed period, which has at least one transmission mode, where at least one of a null symbol repetition period and a null symbol width is different depending on at least one transmission mode, and in which the longer said null symbol repetition period  
10 becomes, the wider said null symbol width becomes, said null symbol detection device comprising:

an amplitude detector operable for detecting an envelope of at least one of an intermediate frequency signal and a baseband signal;

15 a synchronous addition buffer group having at least one synchronous addition buffer for synchronously adding data obtained by sampling an output of said amplitude detector at a fixed sample period during said null symbol repetition period corresponding to said at least one of  
20 transmission modes to be received;

a transmission mode determination processor operable for performing a moving average operation upon all synchronous addition data rows stored in said at least one of synchronous addition buffer of said synchronous addition  
25 buffer group, and for determining a transmission mode by

detecting, with respect to a transmission mode to be received, a minimum value of the moving average operation and an address of said at least one synchronous addition buffer providing the minimum value; and

5           a null position detector operable for detecting, in accordance with a transmission mode determined in said transmission mode determination processor, a null symbol position from the address providing the minimum value of the moving average operation, and for generating a  
10       synchronous pulse at a start point of the null symbol position.

2. A null symbol detection device according to claim 1, wherein

15           said transmission mode determination processor includes:

          a moving average processing unit for performing a moving average operation in which, with respect to all of the synchronous addition data rows stored in at least one  
20       synchronous addition buffer of said synchronous addition buffer group, an average value of adjacent  $m$  sampling values is calculated and the sampling point is successively moved, and for detecting the minimum value of the moving average operation and the address of said at least one  
25       synchronous addition buffer providing the minimum value for

the transmission mode to be received;

a correction processing unit for correcting the minimum value of the moving average operation for each of the transmission modes performed in said moving average processing unit in accordance with a synchronous addition number and a time width of the moving average operation; and

a transmission mode determining unit for comparing corrected minimum values of the moving average operation for the respective transmission modes to determine the transmission mode to be received.

3. A null symbol detection device according to claim 2, wherein

the time width of the moving average operation in said moving average processing unit is equal to or less than the null symbol width of transmission mode having null symbol repetition period equal to a synchronous addition period of said at least one synchronous addition buffer.

4. A null symbol detection device according to claim 2, wherein

in said synchronous addition buffer group, synchronous addition is performed for numbers predetermined for each of said synchronous addition buffers, and a time

period required for the synchronous addition is equal to a time period of said buffers with different synchronous addition periods.

5           5. A null symbol detection device according to claim 2, wherein

          said correction processing unit normalizes the minimum value of the moving average operation calculated in said moving average processing unit by a value obtained by  
10 multiplying the synchronous addition number by data corresponding to the time width of the moving average operation.

          6. A null symbol detection device according to claim  
15 2, wherein

          said transmission mode determining unit compares the minimum value of the moving average operation corresponding to each of the transmission modes corrected in said correction processing unit with a predetermined threshold,  
20 and detects the minimum value among results of the moving average operation smaller than the predetermined threshold to determine a transmission mode, and when the minimum value smaller than the predetermined threshold is not provided, determines that a determination of the  
25 transmission mode is impossible.

7. A null symbol detection device according to claim 1, wherein

said transmission mode determination processor  
5 includes:

a moving average processing unit for performing a moving average operation in which, with respect to all of the synchronous addition data rows stored in said at least one of synchronous addition buffer of said synchronous  
10 addition buffer group, an average value of adjacent m sampling values is calculated and the sampling point is successively moved, and for detecting the minimum value of the moving average operation and the address of said at least one of synchronous addition buffer providing the  
15 minimum value for the transmission mode to be received;

a threshold calculating unit for calculating thresholds for detecting a transmission mode by said synchronous addition data stored in said synchronous at least one addition buffer; and

20 a transmission mode determining unit for comparing the minimum value of the moving average operation calculated in said moving average processing unit with a threshold calculated in said threshold calculating unit to determine the transmission mode to be received.

8. A null symbol detection device according to claim 7, wherein

the time width of the moving average operation in said moving average processing unit is equal to or less than the null symbol width of a transmission mode having null symbol repetition period equal to a synchronous addition period of said at least one of synchronous addition buffer.

9. A null symbol detection device according to claim 7, wherein

said synchronous addition buffer group performs the synchronous addition for same synchronous addition numbers regardless of the null symbol repetition period.

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10. A null symbol detection device according to claim 7, wherein

said transmission mode determining unit detects all of the transmission modes to be received and, when detection of transmission mode cannot be performed successfully, outputs a mode undefined message indicating that the detection of the transmission mode to be received is impossible.

11. A null symbol detection device according to

claim 2, wherein

the transmission mode to be received is in conformity with European Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) standard (ETS300401).

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12. A null symbol detection device according to claim 7, wherein

the transmission mode to be received is in conformity with European Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) standard (ETS300401).

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13. A null symbol detection device according to claim 11, wherein

said synchronous addition buffer group has three buffers which perform synchronous addition with periods of 24 msec, 48 msec and 96 msec, respectively.

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14. A null symbol detection device according to claim 12, wherein

said synchronous addition buffer group has three buffers which perform synchronous addition with periods of 24 msec, 48 msec and 96 msec, respectively.

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15. A null symbol detection device according to claim 11, wherein

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in said synchronous addition buffer group, when a sample period of synchronous addition data in the synchronous addition buffer with a period of 24 msec is 1, a sample period of synchronous addition data in the synchronous addition buffer with a period of 48 msec is 2, and a sample period of synchronous addition data in the synchronous addition buffer with a period of 96 msec is 4.

16. A null symbol detection device according to claim 12, wherein

in said synchronous addition buffer group, when a sample period of synchronous addition data in the synchronous addition buffer with a period of 24 msec is 1, a sample period of synchronous addition data in the synchronous addition buffer with a period of 48 msec is 2, and a sample period of synchronous addition data in the synchronous addition buffer with a period of 96 msec is 4.

17. A null symbol detection device according to claim 16, wherein

in said synchronous addition buffer group, by using data sampled in the same period regardless of the synchronous addition period, the synchronous addition buffer with a period of 96 msec synchronously adds average values for four sample data, the synchronous addition

buffer with a period of 48 msec synchronously adds average values for two sample data, and the synchronous addition buffer with a period of 24 msec synchronously adds one sample data.

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18. A null symbol detection device according to claim 11, wherein

said moving average processing unit performs a moving average operation upon the number of samples corresponding to 0.5  $\tau$  to 1.0  $\tau$  in which  $\tau$  indicates the null symbol width of the respective transmission modes.

19. A null symbol detection device according to claim 12, wherein

15 said moving average processing unit performs a moving average operation upon the number of samples corresponding to 0.5  $\tau$  to 1.0  $\tau$  in which  $\tau$  indicates the null symbol width of the respective transmission modes.

20 20. A null symbol detection device used for receivers for a digital broadcasting system which repeatedly transmits a null symbol with smaller transmission power than those of other symbols during a fixed period, which has at least one transmission mode,

25 where at least one of a null symbol repetition period and a

null symbol width is different depending on at least one transmission mode, and in which the longer said null symbol repetition period becomes, the wider said null symbol width becomes, said null symbol detection device comprising:

5           an amplitude detector operable for detecting an envelope of at least one of an intermediate frequency signal and a baseband signal;

          a synchronous addition buffer group having at least one synchronous addition buffer for synchronously adding  
10   data obtained by sampling an output of said amplitude detector at a fixed sample period during said null symbol repetition period corresponding to said at least one of transmission modes to be received;

          a transmission mode determination processor operable  
15   for performing a moving average operation upon all synchronous addition data rows stored in said at least one of synchronous addition buffer of said synchronous addition buffer group, and for determining a transmission mode by detecting, with respect to a transmission mode to be  
20   received, a minimum value of the moving average operation and an address of said at least one synchronous addition buffer providing the minimum value; and

          a null position detector operable for detecting, in accordance with a transmission mode determined in said  
25   transmission mode determination processor, a null symbol

position from the address providing the minimum value of the moving average operation, and for generating a synchronous pulse at a start point of the null symbol position,

5           said transmission mode determination processor includes:

          a moving average processing unit for performing a moving average operation in which, with respect to all of the synchronous addition data rows stored in at least one  
10   synchronous addition buffer of said synchronous addition buffer group, an average value of adjacent m sampling values is calculated and the sampling point is successively moved, and for detecting the minimum value of the moving average operation and the address of said at least one  
15   synchronous addition buffer providing the minimum value for the transmission mode to be received;

          a correction processing unit for correcting the minimum value of the moving average operation for each of the transmission modes performed in said moving average  
20   processing unit in accordance with a synchronous addition number and a time width of the moving average operation;  
and

          a transmission mode determining unit for comparing corrected minimum values of the moving average operation  
25   for the respective transmission modes to determine the

transmission mode to be received.

21. A null symbol detection device used for receivers for a digital broadcasting system which repeatedly transmits a null symbol with smaller transmission power than those of other symbols during a fixed period, which has at least one transmission mode, where at least one of a null symbol repetition period and a null symbol width is different depending on at least one transmission mode, and in which the longer said null symbol repetition period becomes, the wider said null symbol width becomes, said null symbol detection device comprising:

an amplitude detector operable for detecting an envelope of at least one of an intermediate frequency signal and a baseband signal;

a synchronous addition buffer group having at least one synchronous addition buffer for synchronously adding data obtained by sampling an output of said amplitude detector at a fixed sample period during said null symbol repetition period corresponding to said at least one of transmission modes to be received;

a transmission mode determination processor operable for performing moving average operation upon all synchronous addition data rows stored in said at least one of synchronous addition buffer of said synchronous addition

buffer group, and for determining a transmission mode by detecting, with respect to a transmission mode to be received, a minimum value of the moving average operation and an address of said at least one synchronous addition  
5 buffer providing the minimum value; and

a null position detector operable for detecting, in accordance with a transmission mode determined in said transmission mode determination processor, a null symbol position from the address providing the minimum value of  
10 the moving average operation, and for generating a synchronous pulse at a start point of the null symbol position,

said transmission mode determination processor includes:

15 a moving average processing unit for performing a moving average operation in which, with respect to all of the synchronous addition data rows stored in said at least one of synchronous addition buffer of said synchronous addition buffer group, an average value of adjacent m  
20 sampling values is calculated and the sampling point is successively moved, and for detecting the minimum value of the moving average operation and the address of said at least one of synchronous addition buffer providing the minimum value for the transmission mode to be received;

25 a threshold calculating unit for calculating

thresholds for detecting a transmission mode by said  
synchronous addition data stored in said synchronous at  
least one addition buffer; and

5 a transmission mode determining unit for comparing  
the minimum value of the moving average operation  
calculated in said moving average processing unit with a  
threshold calculated in said threshold calculating unit to  
determine the transmission mode to be received.